## (12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

## (19) World Intellectual Property Organization

International Bureau





(43) International Publication Date 31 December 2003 (31.12.2003)

**PCT** 

## (10) International Publication Number WO 2004/002051 A3

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: H04L 7/00, 12/66, 12/28, 12/56, H04Q 7/20, 7/24, H04M 11/00

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2003/019675

(22) International Filing Date: 20 June 2003 (20.06.2003)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data: 60/390,811

21 June 2002 (21.06.2002) US

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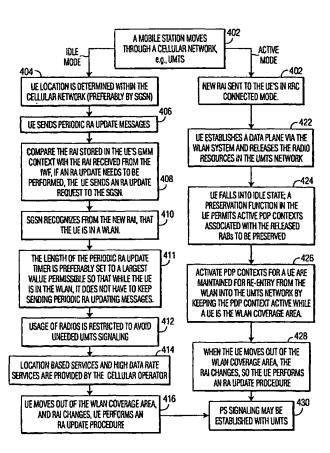
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- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: REGISTRATION OF A WLAN AS A UMTS ROUTING AREA FOR WLAN-UMTS INTERWORKING



(57) Abstract: A system for employing a wireless local (Fig. 4) area network (WLAN) (14) as a cellular network routing area includes a cellular network (12), which is capable of determining a location where a service request is made. The cellular (12) network includes a packet-based support node B, which determines if the request can be serviced through a WLAN (14), which is identified in the cellular network (12) as a routing area. Packet data protocol (PDP) context is maintained while servicing the request using the WLAN (14) to provide smooth interworking between the WLAN (14) and the cellular network (12).